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REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

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Peace Hostage
Plan Zany
Enough for
New Frontier

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—There is no hasty and adventurous scheme for international peace as zany in concept, so difficult of execution, and so uncertain in result that it doesn't find supporters. This thought comes to mind in contemplation of a colossal plan for a Russo-American exchange of hostages and a super-colossal plan for a multi-million or even perhaps a multi-billion dollar exchange of 200,000 visitors.

Edmund Zawacki, professor in the department of Slavonic languages at the University of Wisconsin, is the author of an idea to turn the cold war into 10 hot nights in 20,000 towns in the United States and 20,000 towns in Russia for 400,000 government financed tourists. Stephen D. James, an advertising copywriter in the Bronx, is the inspired genius behind a proposed exchange of "peace hostages" by the two countries.



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Prof. Zawacki and James lunged independently into thought, but set their sights on the same objective—taxpayer dollars. The products of their thinking are so fantastic that they should worry taxpayers because the more far out any scheme is the better its chance of backing in the New Frontier, whose boundaries are undetermined after more than 2½ years.

He's Two Degrees Up on Kennedy

THE GOOD professor holds three degrees from Harvard, which puts him two up on his fellow alumnus, John Fitzgerald Kennedy. He studied at the University of Warsaw, where he taught English from 1930 to 1935. In those days, Warsaw was an open city to freedom, where today it is the capital of a slave state.

It is the professor's idea to open 20,000 cities and villages in the United States and the same number in the U.S.S.R. to 200,000 American and 200,000 Russian visitors. Towns of comparable size would exchange visitors on a 10-day social visit

or a grass roots jubilee. All expenses—travel, housing and food—would be paid by each government in its own country, so that neither government would send dollars. The theory is that the outlay would all come back to the country of origin and it would be on the taxpayers as usual.

Prof. Zawacki said the idea is not naive, not beautiful-souled political sentimentality, nor would it be like the cultural exchange program which, he concedes, is controlled by the soviet government for all political purposes. The taxpayers might have other words for it.

200,000 Visitors for 200,000 Spies?

THE PROFESSOR feels so strongly about his idea that he sent a 400 word cable to Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev of Russia urging him to consider support. This cost the professor \$53.67, as he was careful to inform the press. Professors, like politicians, always know to the last penny how much they spend when they venture their own money, but are vague about how much they would spend in tax dollars.

Under the Zawacki plan 200,000 persons would set something of a freeloading record. The cost of travel alone could be expected to run above 500 millions in dollars and rubles. How the visitors would be picked is a detail to be worked out. It could be that we would exchange 200,000 visitors for 200,000 spies.

Prof. Zawacki is vague on what the trip would accomplish except that he contends it will advance the cause of peace and American security. Maybe he intends to make it an annual affair. He did get the plan thru the Wisconsin legislature and has Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier (D., Wis.) advancing it in government agencies.

Someone You'd Like to Ship Away?

THE "HOSTAGES FOR PEACE" plan has been adopted by James B. Donovan, who negotiated the \$3 million dollar release of Cuban rebels and has undertaken to negotiate the terms of settlement of the proposed exchange with Russia. It is not yet clear who will be picked, how long they will stay and how many will be exchanged.

It could be that Russia might get the United States to liquidate its undesirables for them. And it could be that the American hostages could be selected by a popularity poll in reverse. This could be great fun. We could all have our little lists of those who would not be missed.

By the way, Khrushchev has not replied to Zawacki's cable nor offered himself as a hostage under the James plan.